DRAGON AGE™

#5 • $3.99

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delgado

Orson Scott Card with Aaron Johnston

Anthony J. Tan Jason P. Martin

DRAGON AGE™

What has come before

Gleam is a young mage who doesn't understand her own powers or know her true parentage. Her adoptive parents have been murdered, and her cousin Datlin has just been slain by the templars sent to track Gleam down. Now, with her powers dampened, Gleam and her adoptive brother Agmo have no chance of escape.

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dragonage.bioware.com
www.eacomics.com
www.idwpublishing.com

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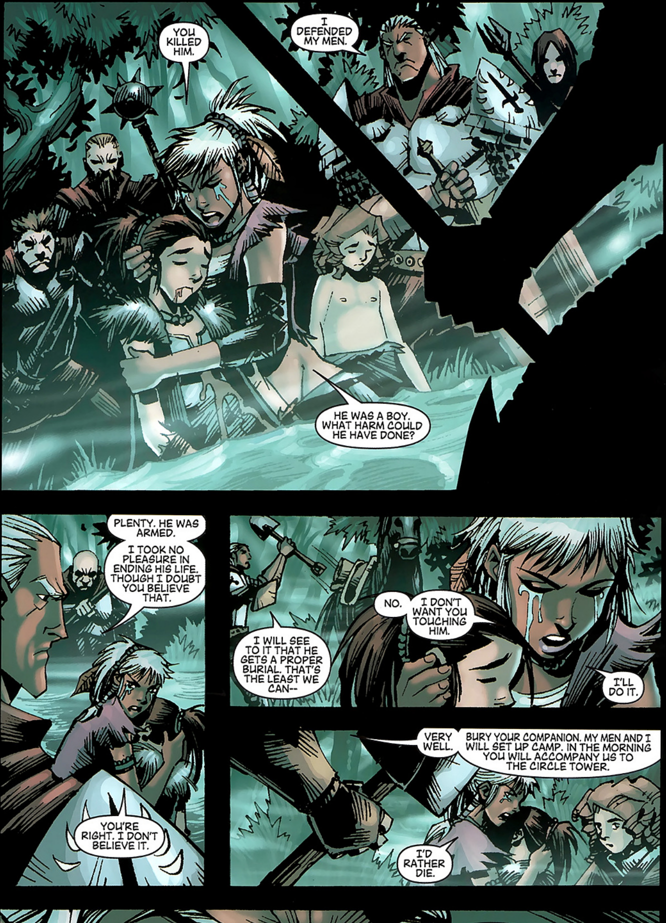
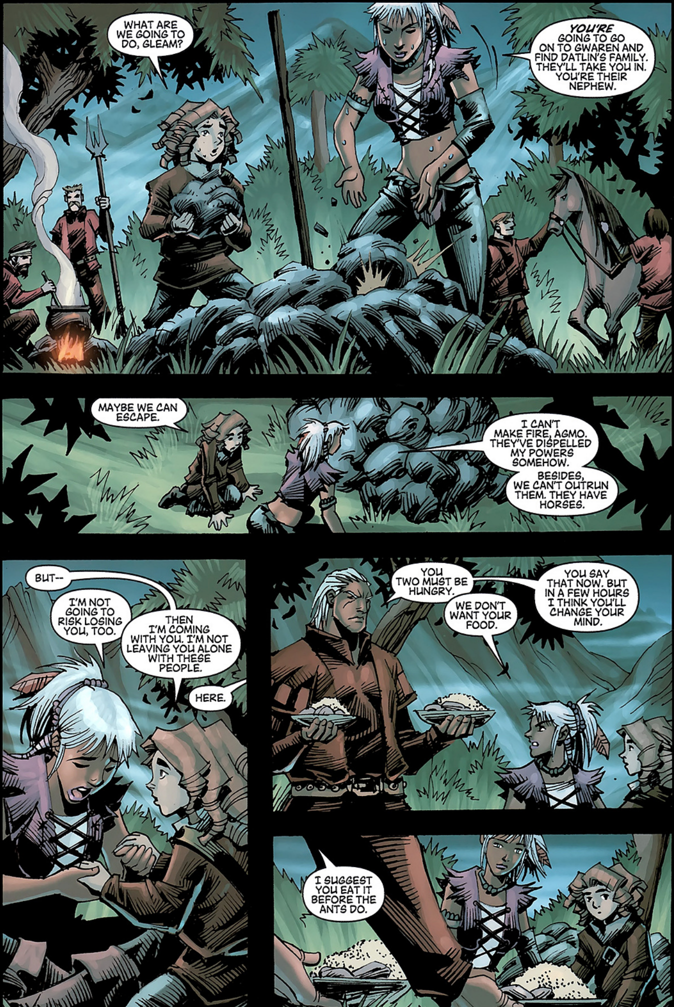
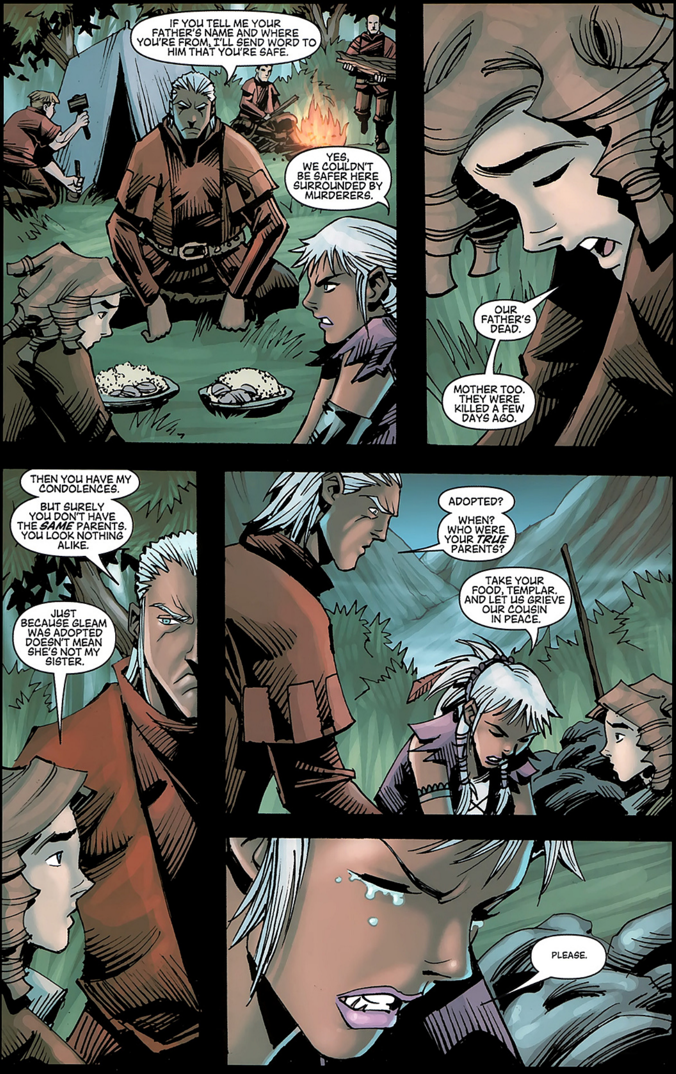
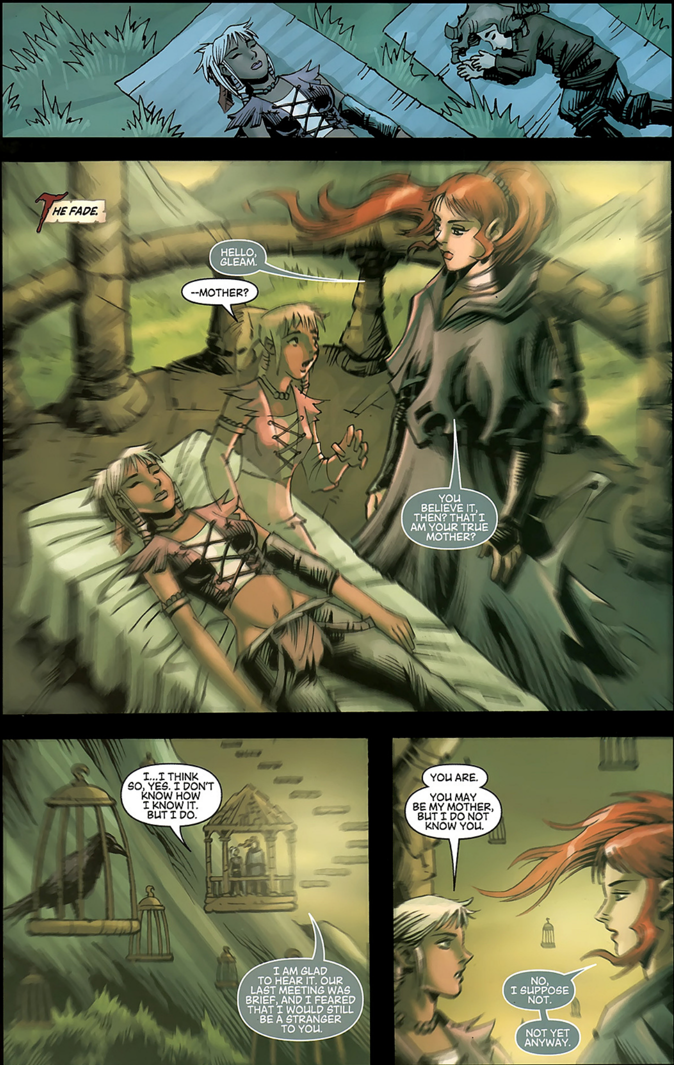
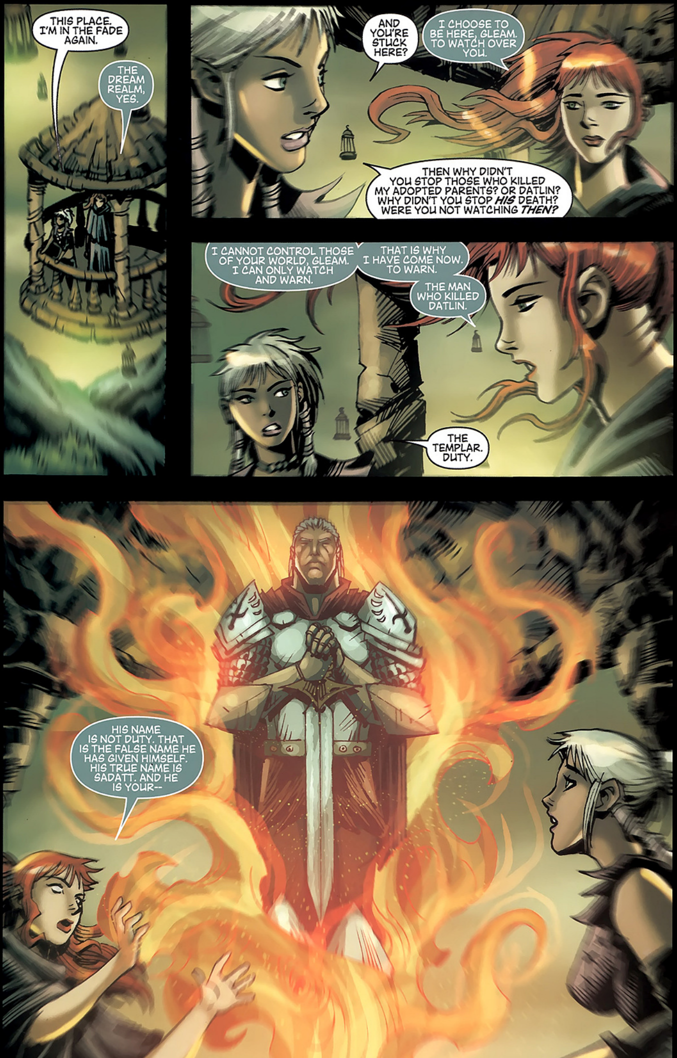
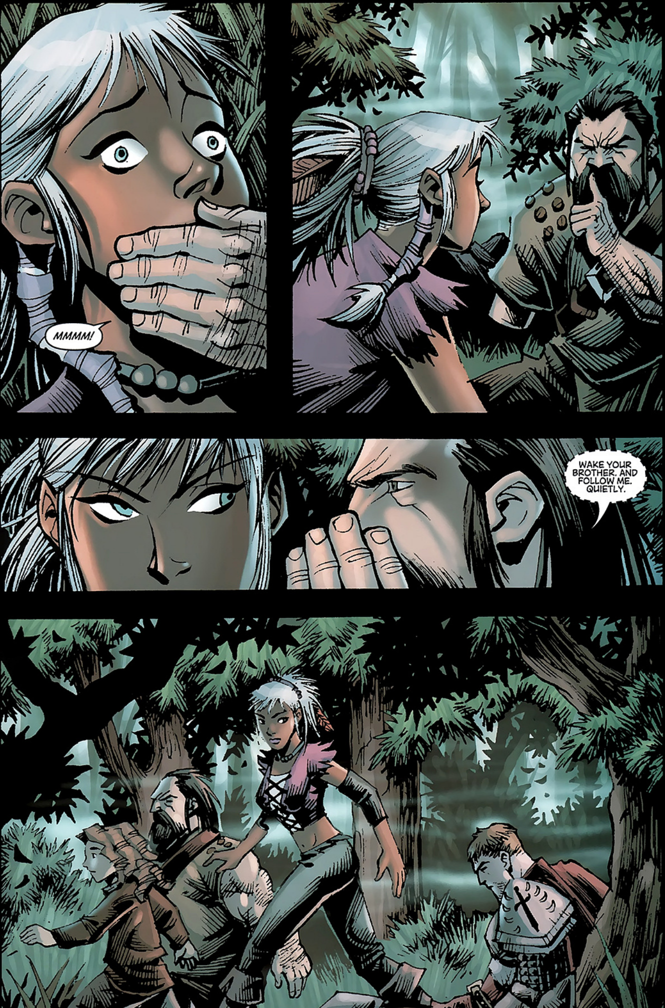

YOU KILLED HIM.
I DEFENDED MY MEN.
HE WAS A BOY. WHAT HARM COULD HE HAVE DONE?
PLENTY. HE WAS ARMED.
I TOOK NO PLEASURE IN ENDING HIS LIFE. THOUGH I DOUBT YOU BELIEVE THAT.
YOU'RE RIGHT. I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
I WILL SEE TO IT THAT HE GETS A PROPER BURIAL. THAT'S THE LEAST WE CAN--
NO.
I DON'T WANT YOU TOUCHING HIM.
I'LL DO IT.
VERY WELL.
BURY YOUR COMPANION. MY MEN AND I WILL SET UP CAMP. IN THE MORNING YOU WILL ACCOMPANY US TO THE CIRCLE TOWER.
I'D RATHER DIE.
THAT IS THE ALTERNATIVE.

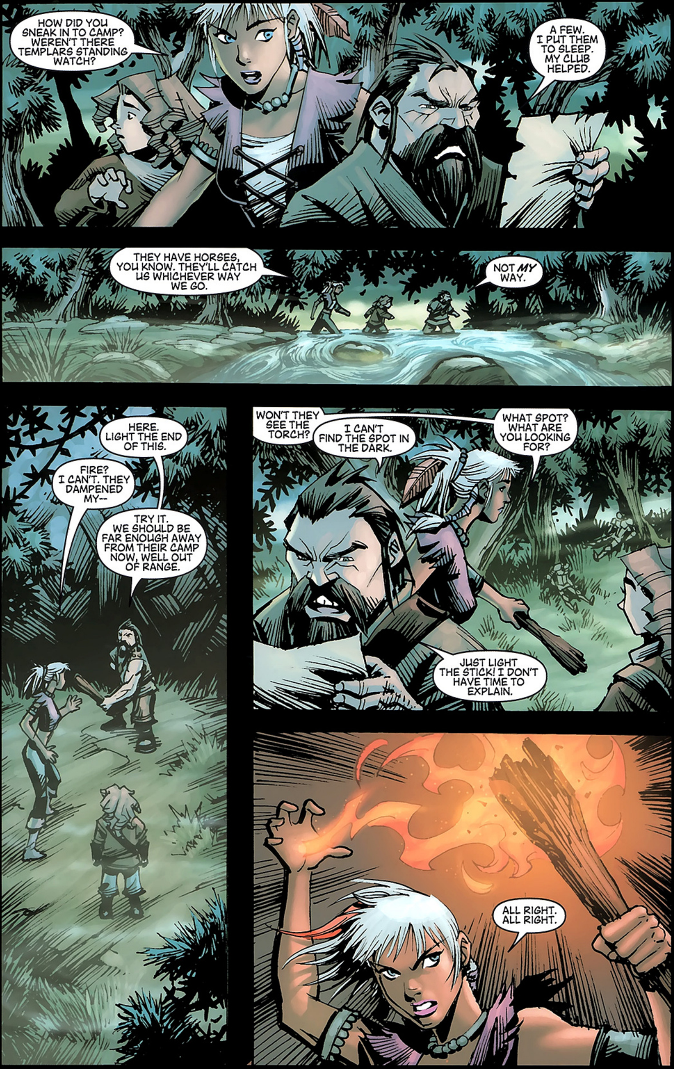

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, GLEAM?
YOU'RE GOING TO GO ON TO GWAREN AND FIND DATLIN'S FAMILY. THEY'LL TAKE YOU IN. YOU'RE THEIR NEPHEW.
MAYBE WE CAN ESCAPE.
I CAN'T MAKE FIRE, AGMO. THEY'VE DISPELLED MY POWERS SOMEHOW.
BESIDES, WE CAN'T OUTRUN THEM. THEY HAVE HORSES.
BUT--
I'M NOT GOING TO RISK LOSING YOU, TOO.
THEN I'M COMING WITH YOU. I'M NOT LEAVING YOU ALONE WITH THESE PEOPLE.
HERE.
YOU TWO MUST BE HUNGRY.
WE DON'T WANT YOUR FOOD.
YOU SAY THAT NOW. BUT IN A FEW HOURS I THINK YOU'LL CHANGE YOUR MIND.
I SUGGEST YOU EAT IT BEFORE THE ANTS DO.

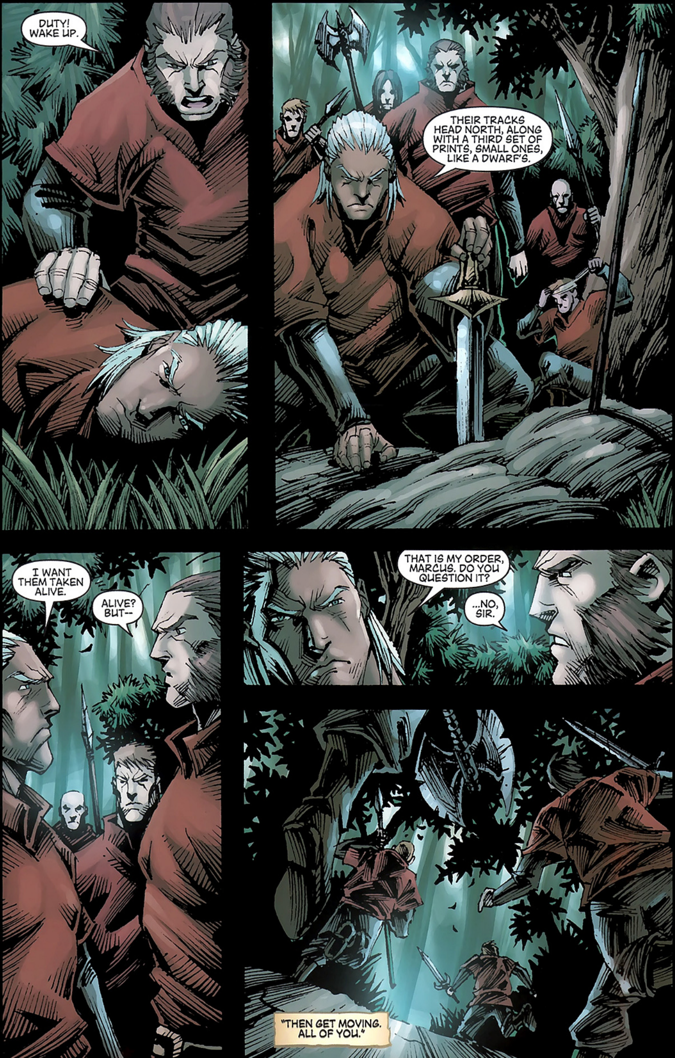

IF YOU TELL ME YOUR FATHER'S NAME AND WHERE YOU'RE FROM, I'LL SEND WORD TO HIM THAT YOU'RE SAFE.
YES, WE COULDN'T BE SAFER HERE SURROUNDED BY MURDERERS.
OUR FATHER'S DEAD.
MOTHER TOO. THEY WERE KILLED A FEW DAYS AGO.
THEN YOU HAVE MY CONDOLENCES.
BUT SURELY YOU DON'T HAVE THE *SAME* PARENTS. YOU LOOK NOTHING ALIKE.
JUST BECAUSE GLEAM WAS ADOPTED DOESN'T MEAN SHE'S NOT MY SISTER.
ADOPTED?
WHEN? WHO WERE YOUR *TRUE* PARENTS?
TAKE YOUR FOOD, TEMPLAR, AND LET US GRIEVE OUR COUSIN IN PEACE.
PLEASE.

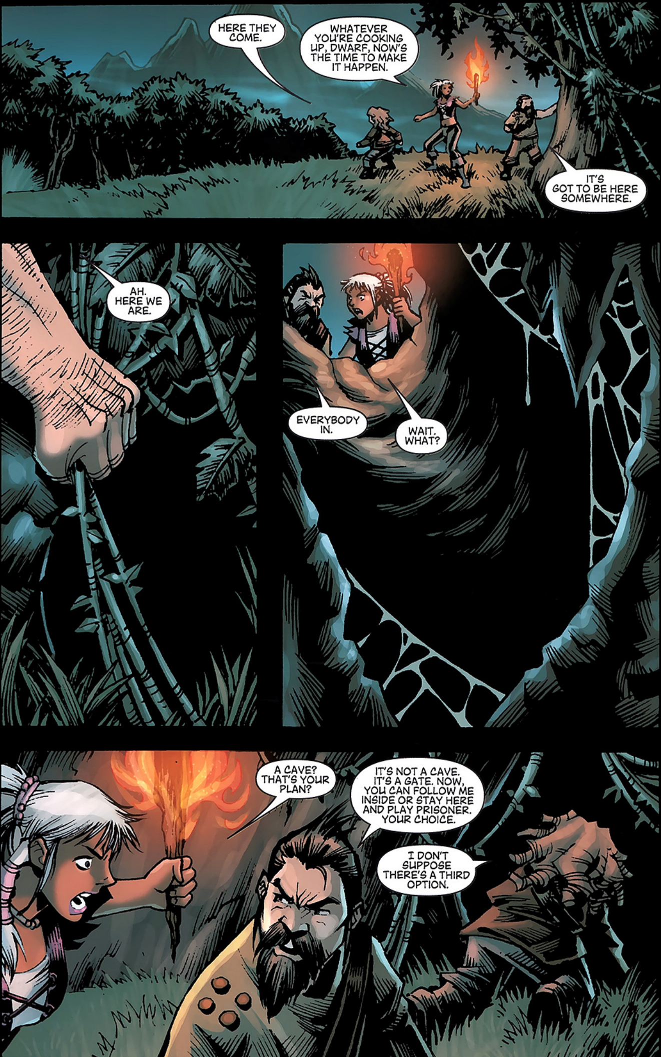

THE FADE.
HELLO, GLEAM.
--MOTHER?
YOU BELIEVE IT, THEN? THAT I AM YOUR TRUE MOTHER?
I...I THINK SO, YES. I DON'T KNOW HOW I KNOW IT. BUT I DO.
I AM GLAD TO HEAR IT. OUR LAST MEETING WAS BRIEF, AND I FEARED THAT I WOULD STILL BE A STRANGER TO YOU.
YOU ARE.
YOU MAY BE MY MOTHER, BUT I DO NOT KNOW YOU.
NO, I SUPPOSE NOT.
NOT YET ANYWAY.

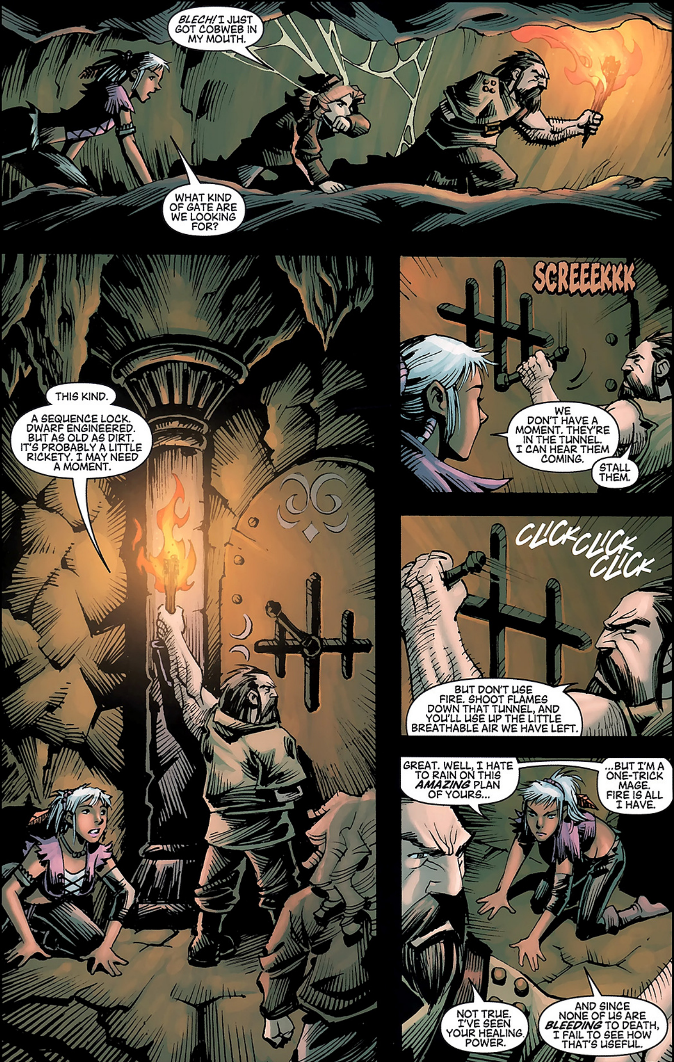

THIS PLACE. I'M IN THE FADE AGAIN.
THE DREAM REALM, YES.
AND YOU'RE STUCK HERE?
I CHOOSE TO BE HERE, GLEAM. TO WATCH OVER YOU.
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP THOSE WHO KILLED MY ADOPTED PARENTS? OR DATLIN? WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP *HIS* DEATH? WERE YOU NOT WATCHING *THEN?*
I CANNOT CONTROL THOSE OF YOUR WORLD, GLEAM. I CAN ONLY WATCH AND WARN.
THAT IS WHY I HAVE COME NOW. TO WARN.
THE MAN WHO KILLED DATLIN.
THE TEMPLAR. *DUTY.*
HIS NAME IS NOT DUTY. THAT IS THE FALSE NAME HE HAS GIVEN HIMSELF. HIS TRUE NAME IS SADATT. AND HE IS YOUR--

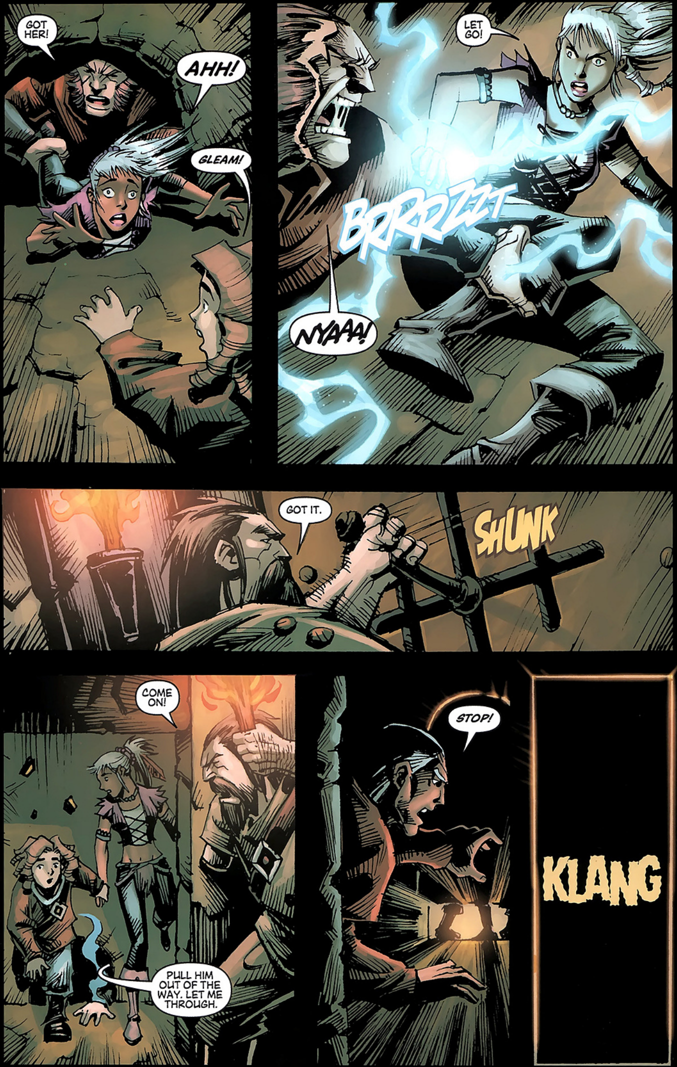

MMMM!
WAKE YOUR BROTHER. AND FOLLOW ME. QUIETLY.

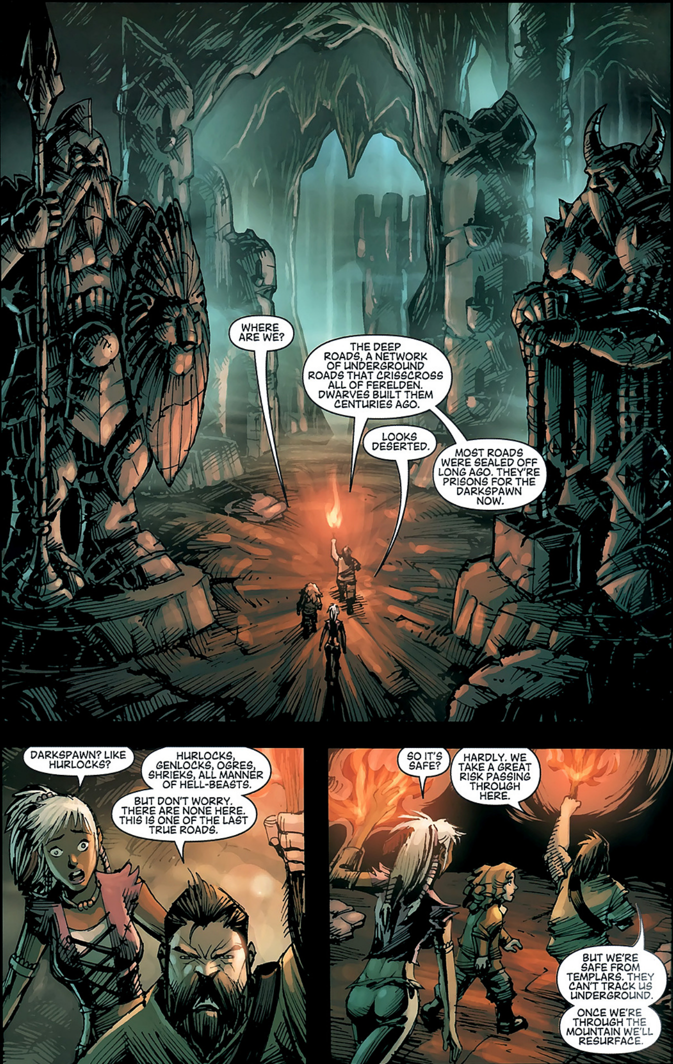

HOW DID YOU SNEAK IN TO CAMP? WEREN'T THERE TEMPLARS STANDING WATCH?
A FEW. I PUT THEM TO SLEEP. MY CLUB HELPED.
THEY HAVE HORSES, YOU KNOW. THEY'LL CATCH US WHICHEVER WAY WE GO.
NOT *MY* WAY.
HERE. LIGHT THE END OF THIS.
FIRE? I CAN'T. THEY DAMPENED MY--
TRY IT. WE SHOULD BE FAR ENOUGH AWAY FROM THEIR CAMP NOW, WELL OUT OF RANGE.
WON'T THEY SEE THE TORCH?
I CAN'T FIND THE SPOT IN THE DARK.
WHAT SPOT? WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
JUST LIGHT THE STICK! I DON'T HAVE TIME TO EXPLAIN.
ALL RIGHT. ALL RIGHT.

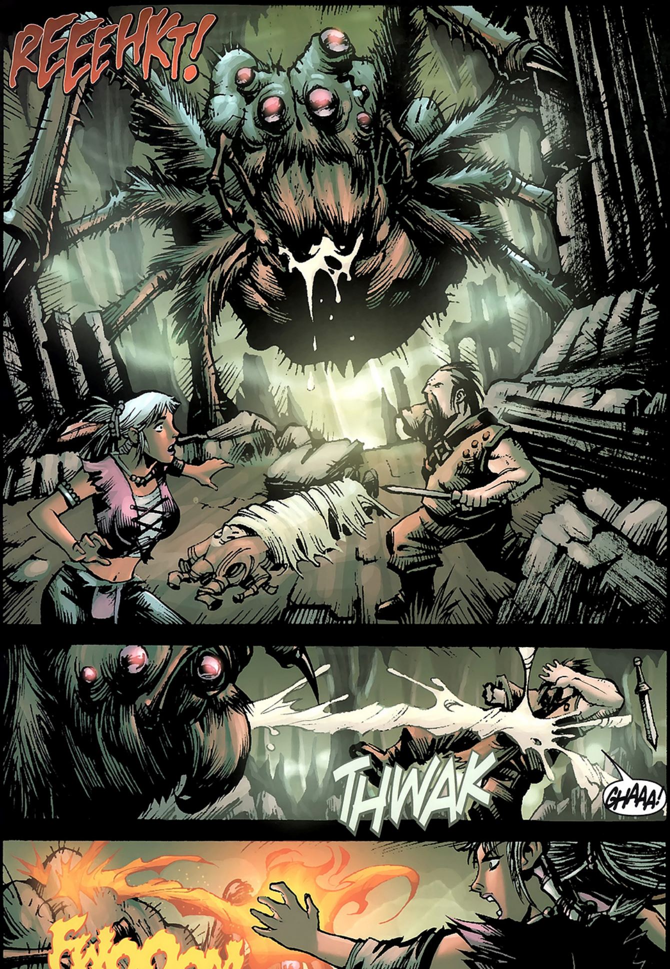

DUTY! WAKE UP.
THEIR TRACKS HEAD NORTH, ALONG WITH A THIRD SET OF PRINTS, SMALL ONES, LIKE A DWARF'S.
I WANT THEM TAKEN ALIVE.
ALIVE? BUT--
THAT IS MY ORDER, MARCUS. DO YOU QUESTION IT?
...NO, SIR.
"THEN GET MOVING. ALL OF YOU."

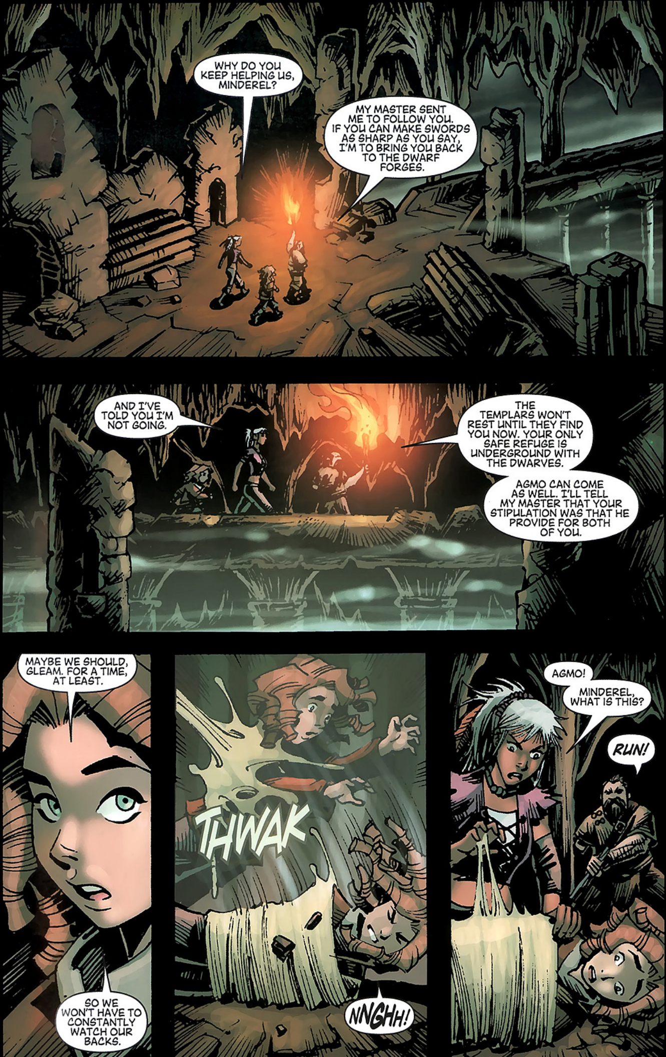

HERE THEY COME.
WHATEVER YOU'RE COOKING UP, DWARF, NOW'S THE TIME TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.
IT'S GOT TO BE HERE SOMEWHERE.
AH. HERE WE ARE.
EVERYBODY IN.
WAIT. WHAT?
A CAVE? THAT'S YOUR PLAN?
IT'S NOT A CAVE. IT'S A GATE. NOW, YOU CAN FOLLOW ME INSIDE OR STAY HERE AND PLAY PRISONER. YOUR CHOICE.
I DON'T SUPPOSE THERE'S A THIRD OPTION.

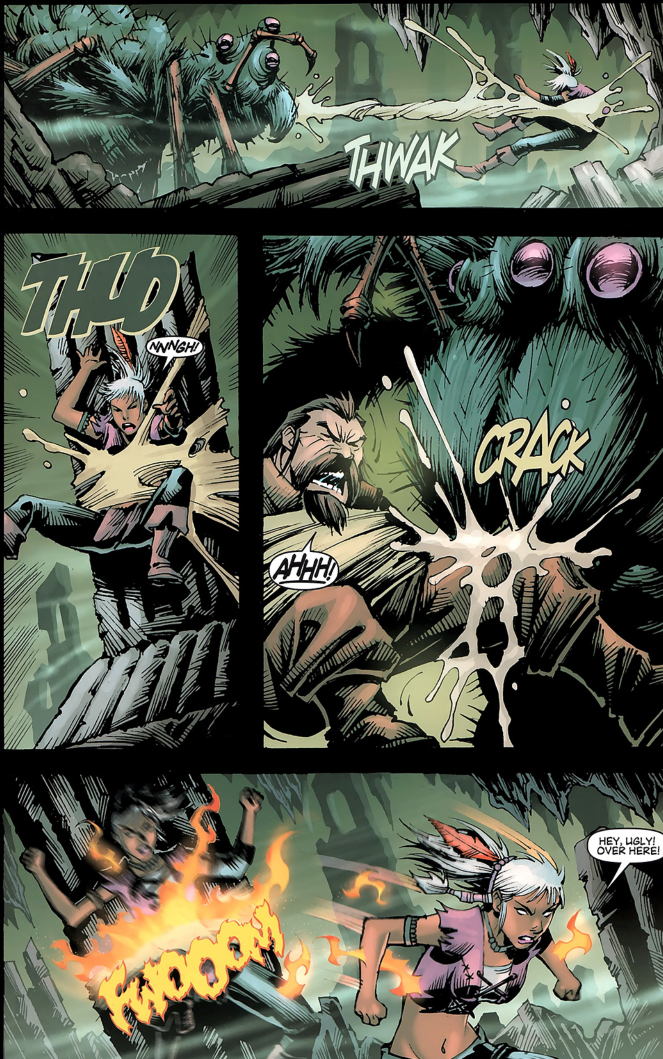

BLECH! I JUST GOT COBWEB IN MY MOUTH.
WHAT KIND OF GATE ARE WE LOOKING FOR?
THIS KIND.
A SEQUENCE LOCK. DWARF ENGINEERED. BUT AS OLD AS DIRT. IT'S PROBABLY A LITTLE RICKETY. I MAY NEED A MOMENT.
SCREEEKKK
WE DON'T HAVE A MOMENT. THEY'RE IN THE TUNNEL. I CAN HEAR THEM COMING.
STALL THEM.
CLICK CLICK CLICK
BUT DON'T USE FIRE. SHOOT FLAMES DOWN THAT TUNNEL, AND YOU'LL USE UP THE LITTLE BREATHABLE AIR WE HAVE LEFT.
GREAT. WELL, I HATE TO RAIN ON THIS *AMAZING* PLAN OF YOURS...
...BUT I'M A ONE-TRICK MAGE. FIRE IS ALL I HAVE.
NOT TRUE. I'VE SEEN YOUR HEALING POWER.
AND SINCE NONE OF US ARE *BLEEDING* TO DEATH, I FAIL TO SEE HOW THAT'S USEFUL.

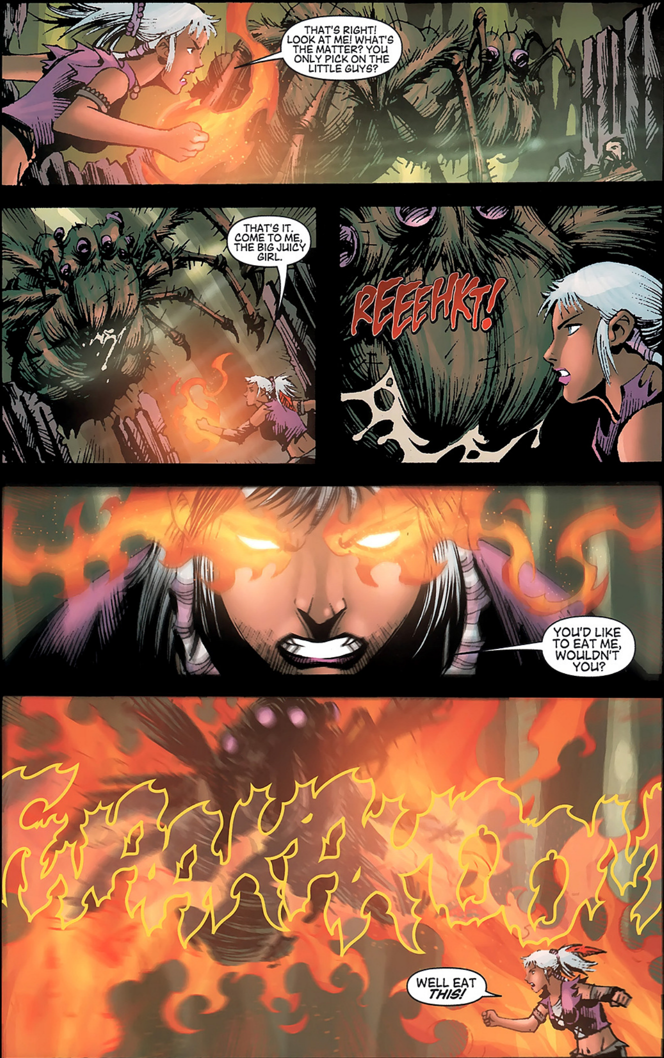

GOT HER!
AHH!
GLEAM!
LET GO!
BRRRZZZT
NYAAA!
GOT IT.
SHUNK
COME ON!
PULL HIM OUT OF THE WAY. LET ME THROUGH.
STOP!
KLANG

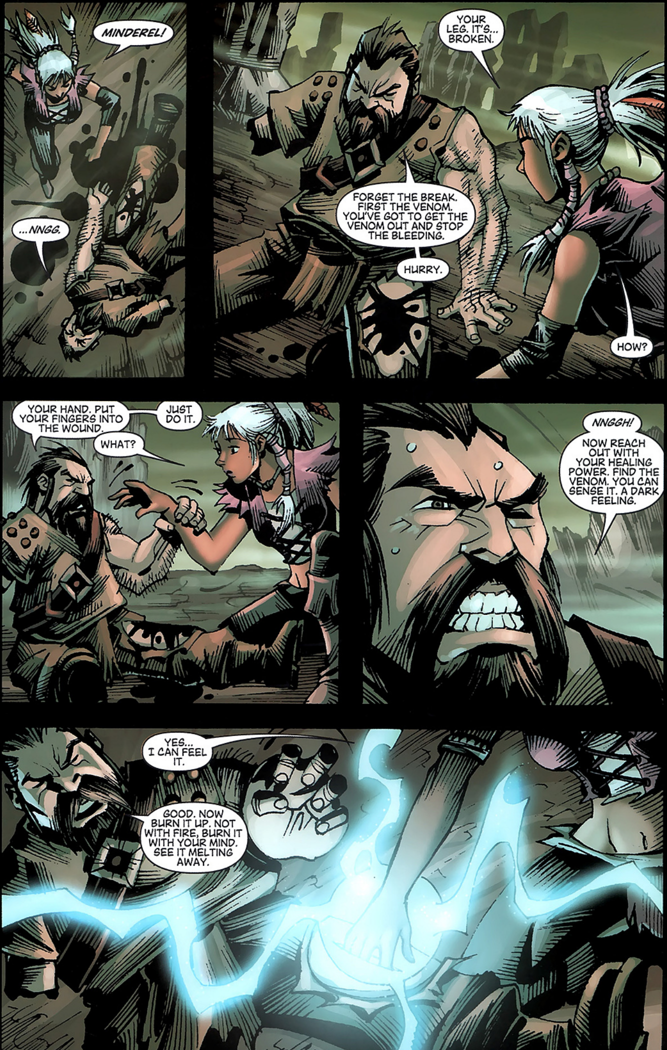

WHERE ARE WE?
THE DEEP ROADS, A NETWORK OF UNDERGROUND ROADS THAT CRISSCROSS ALL OF FERELDEN. DWARVES BUILT THEM CENTURIES AGO.
LOOKS DESERTED.
MOST ROADS WERE SEALED OFF LONG AGO. THEY'RE PRISONS FOR THE DARKSPAWN NOW.
DARKSPAWN? LIKE HURLOCKS?
HURLOCKS, GENLOCKS, OGRES, SHRIEKS, ALL MANNER OF HELL-BEASTS.
BUT DON'T WORRY. THERE ARE NONE HERE. THIS IS ONE OF THE LAST TRUE ROADS.
SO IT'S SAFE?
HARDLY. WE TAKE A GREAT RISK PASSING THROUGH HERE.
BUT WE'RE SAFE FROM TEMPLARS. THEY CAN'T TRACK US UNDERGROUND.
ONCE WE'RE THROUGH THE MOUNTAIN WE'LL RESURFACE.

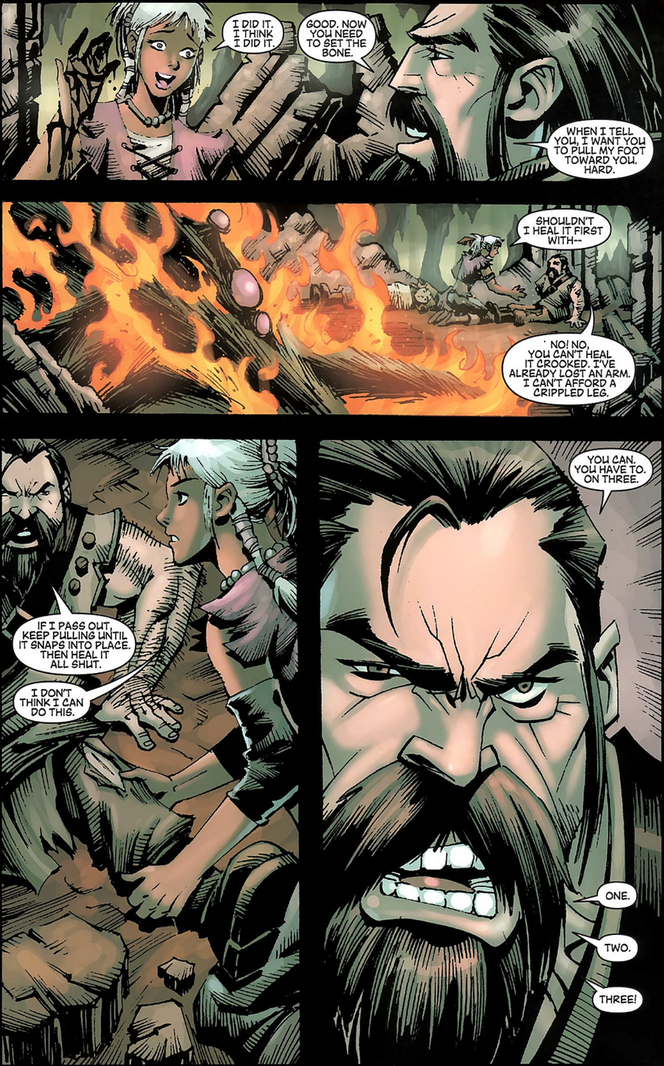

REEEHKT!
THWAK
GHAAA!
FWOOOM

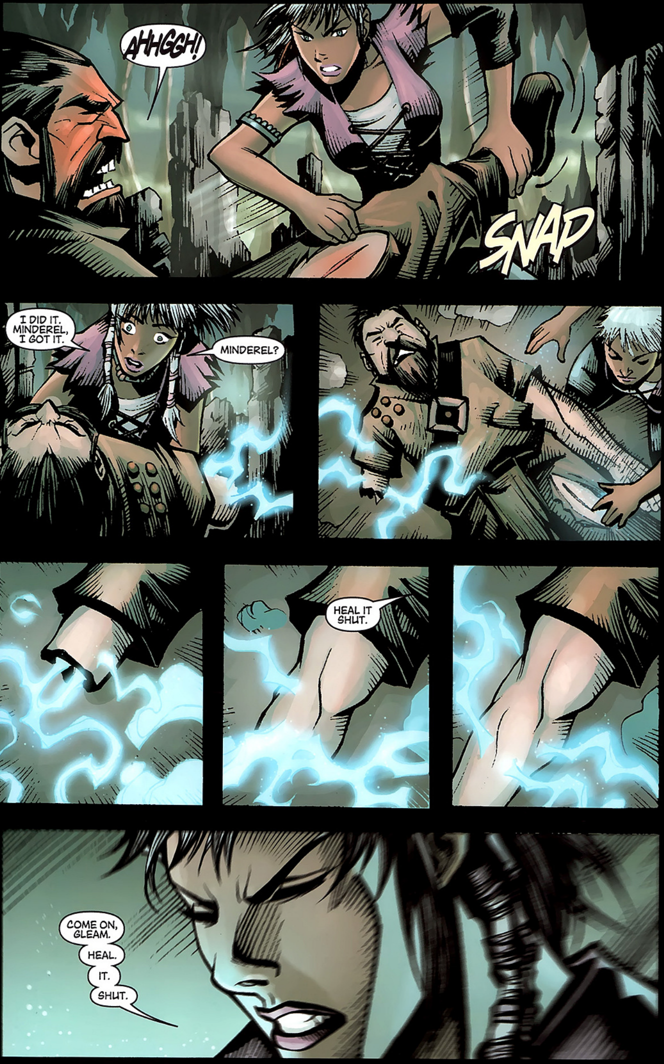

WHY DO YOU KEEP HELPING US, MINDEREL?
MY MASTER SENT ME TO FOLLOW YOU. IF YOU CAN MAKE SWORDS AS SHARP AS YOU SAY, I'M TO BRING YOU BACK TO THE DWARF FORGES.
AND I'VE TOLD YOU I'M NOT GOING.
THE TEMPLARS WON'T REST UNTIL THEY FIND YOU NOW. YOUR ONLY SAFE REFUGE IS UNDERGROUND WITH THE DWARVES.
AGMO CAN COME AS WELL. I'LL TELL MY MASTER THAT YOUR STIPULATION WAS THAT HE PROVIDE FOR BOTH OF YOU.
MAYBE WE SHOULD, GLEAM. FOR A TIME, AT LEAST.
SO WE WON'T HAVE TO CONSTANTLY WATCH OUR BACKS.
THWAK
NNGHH!
AGMO!
MINDEREL, WHAT IS THIS?
RUN!

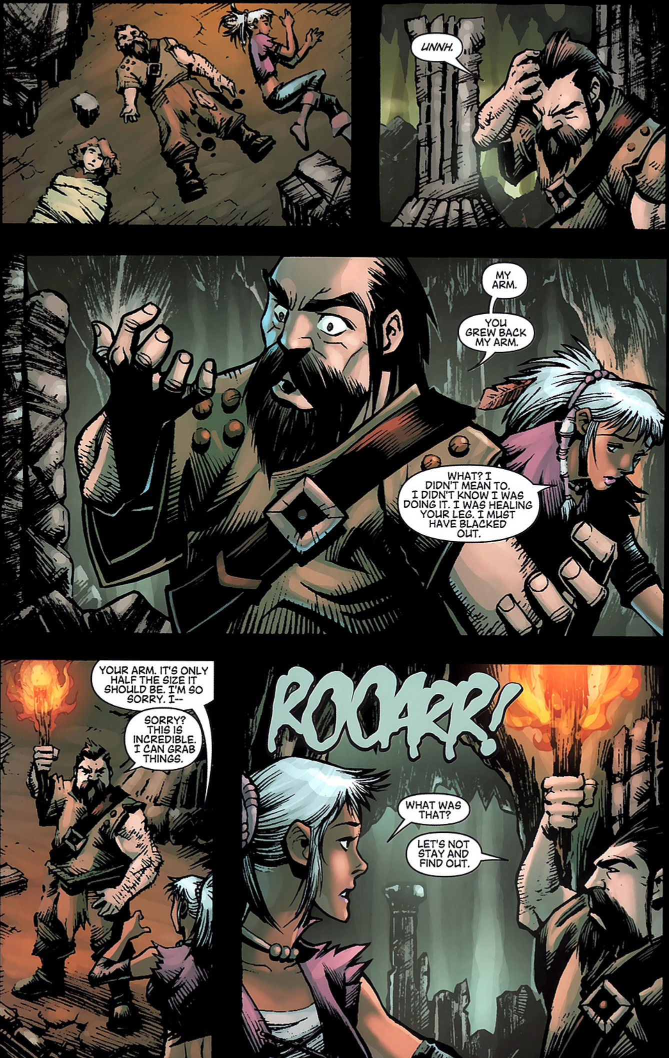

THWAK
THUD
NNNGH!
CRACK
AHHH!
FWOOOM
HEY, UGLY! OVER HERE!

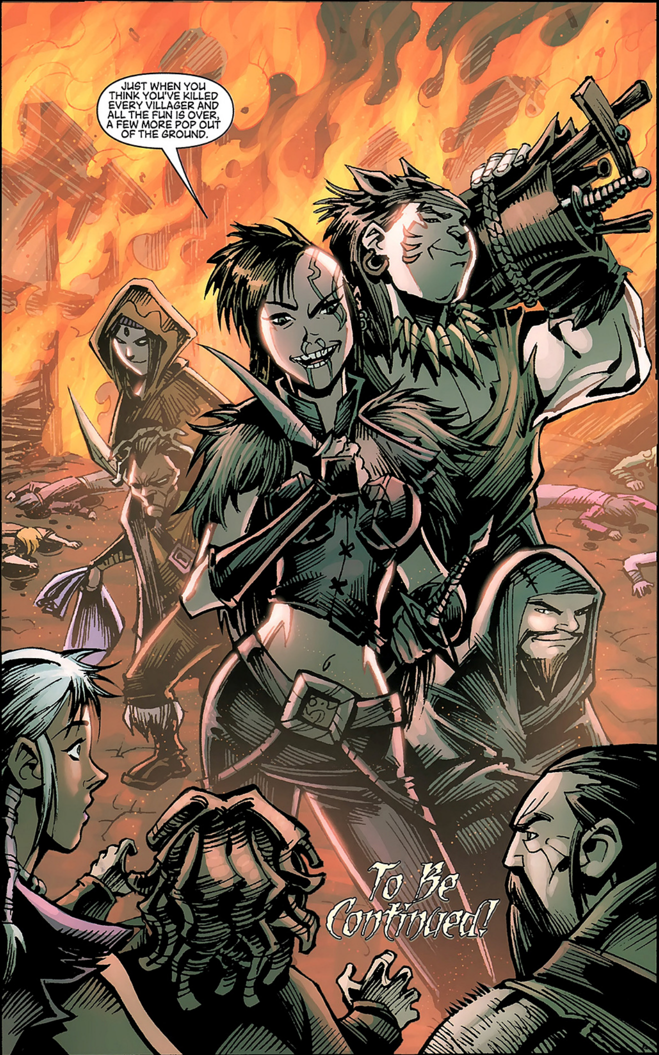

THAT'S RIGHT! LOOK AT ME! WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU ONLY PICK ON THE LITTLE GUYS?
THAT'S IT. COME TO ME, THE BIG JUICY GIRL.
REEEHKT!
YOU'D LIKE TO EAT ME, WOULDN'T YOU?
WHAAROOM
WELL EAT *THIS!*

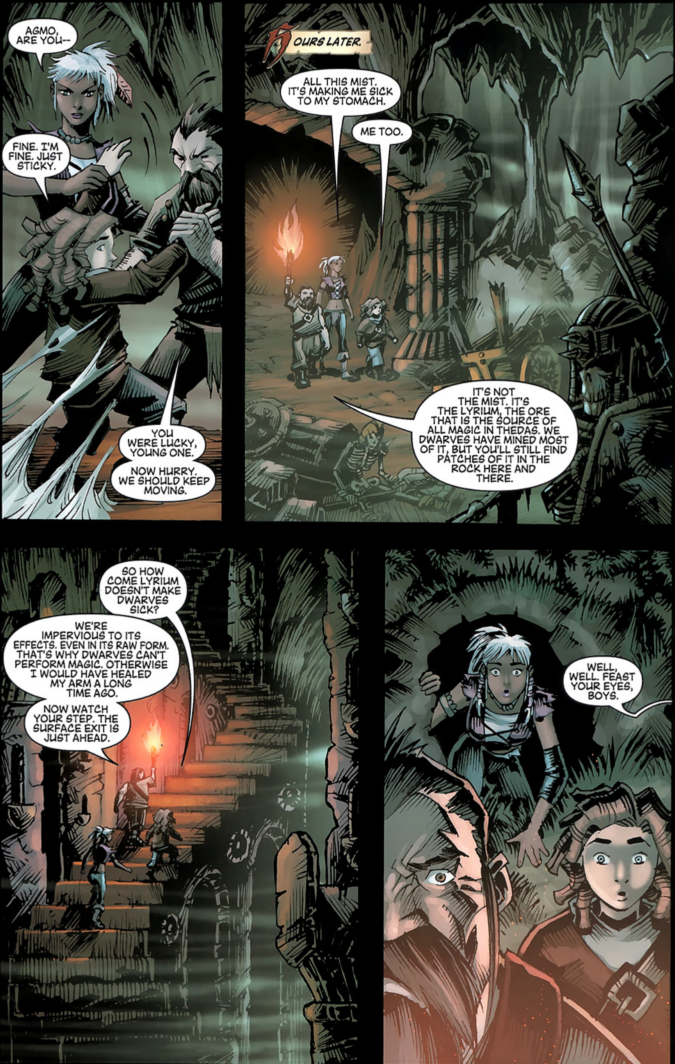

MINDEREL!
...NNGG.
YOUR LEG. IT'S... BROKEN.
FORGET THE BREAK. FIRST THE VENOM. YOU'VE GOT TO GET THE VENOM OUT AND STOP THE BLEEDING.
HURRY.
HOW?
YOUR HAND. PUT YOUR FINGERS INTO THE WOUND.
WHAT?
JUST DO IT.
NNGGH!
NOW REACH OUT WITH YOUR HEALING POWER. FIND THE VENOM. YOU CAN SENSE IT. A DARK FEELING.
YES... I CAN FEEL IT.
GOOD. NOW BURN IT UP. NOT WITH FIRE, BURN IT WITH YOUR MIND. SEE IT MELTING AWAY.


I DID IT. I THINK I DID IT.
GOOD. NOW YOU NEED TO SET THE BONE.
WHEN I TELL YOU, I WANT YOU TO PULL MY FOOT TOWARD YOU. HARD.
SHOULDN'T I HEAL IT FIRST WITH--
NO! NO, YOU CAN'T HEAL IT CROOKED. I'VE ALREADY LOST AN ARM. I CAN'T AFFORD A CRIPPLED LEG.
IF I PASS OUT, KEEP PULLING UNTIL IT SNAPS INTO PLACE. THEN HEAL IT ALL SHUT.
I DON'T THINK I CAN DO THIS.
YOU CAN. YOU HAVE TO. ON THREE.
ONE.
TWO.
THREE!


AHHGGH!
SNAP
I DID IT. MINDEREL, I GOT IT.
MINDEREL?
HEAL IT SHUT.
COME ON, GLEAM.
HEAL.
IT.
SHUT.


UNNH.
MY ARM.
YOU GREW BACK MY ARM.
WHAT? I DIDN'T MEAN TO. I DIDN'T KNOW I WAS DOING IT. I WAS HEALING YOUR LEG. I MUST HAVE BLACKED OUT.
YOUR ARM. IT'S ONLY HALF THE SIZE IT SHOULD BE. I'M SO SORRY. I--
SORRY? THIS IS INCREDIBLE. I CAN GRAB THINGS.
ROOARR!
WHAT WAS THAT?
LET'S NOT STAY AND FIND OUT.


JUST WHEN YOU THINK YOU'VE KILLED EVERY VILLAGER AND ALL THE FUN IS OVER, A FEW MORE POP OUT OF THE GROUND.
To Be Continued!


AGMO, ARE YOU--
FINE. I'M FINE. JUST STICKY.
YOU WERE LUCKY, YOUNG ONE.
NOW HURRY. WE SHOULD KEEP MOVING.
HOURS LATER.
ALL THIS MIST. IT'S MAKING ME SICK TO MY STOMACH.
ME TOO.
IT'S NOT THE MIST. IT'S THE LYRIUM, THE ORE THAT IS THE SOURCE OF ALL MAGIC IN THEDAS. WE DWARVES HAVE MINED MOST OF IT, BUT YOU'LL STILL FIND PATCHES OF IT IN THE ROCK HERE AND THERE.
SO HOW COME LYRIUM DOESN'T MAKE DWARVES SICK?
WE'RE IMPERVIOUS TO ITS EFFECTS. EVEN IN ITS RAW FORM. THAT'S WHY DWARVES CAN'T PERFORM MAGIC. OTHERWISE I WOULD HAVE HEALED MY ARM A LONG TIME AGO.
NOW WATCH YOUR STEP. THE SURFACE EXIT IS JUST AHEAD.
WELL, WELL. FEAST YOUR EYES, BOYS.

in the next issue of:
DRAGON AGE™

IDW PUBLISHING IN SEPTEMBER: COUNTING DOWN

Dispatches from IDW's Chief Creative Officer, Chris Ryall

As kids across the land prepare for the new school year beginning this month, they arm themselves with all the proper tools—pens and paper, iPads and cellphones, a backpack and… a Machete?

Well, maybe not that last one. But while school metal detectors might block you from carrying an actual machete into class, we fully encourage you carrying a copy of *Machete* into school. That is, the new comic we're doing in tandem with filmmaker and *Machete* creator **Robert Rodriguez**. The #0 issue releasing this month leads directly into the new movie, and is scripted by Rodriguez and **Aaron Kaufman**. In the issue, learn just who managed to "piss off the wrong Mexican," and what led Machete to pick up the blades in the first place. *Death Ship*'s **Stuart Sayger** is handling the art for the issue, under menacing covers by **Zach Howard** and **Juan Doe**.

We're also aiming to be Number One with a Bullet in September with an all-new weekly issue that ships every week of September, even the fifth "skip" week.

Actually, I guess it's more accurate to say we're looking to be Number One through Five with five bullets, in the form of *5 Days to Die*! This fast-paced crime tale comes from writer **Andy Schmidt** and artist **Chee**, and features covers by some of the biggest names in comics: **David Finch** (#1); **Mike Oeming** (#2); **Ben Templesmith** (#3); **Gabriel Dell'Otto** (#4) and **Pablo Raimondi** (#5).

Also shipping on a more frequent schedule this month is a new TRANSFORMERS miniseries, DRIFT. Drift, a character introduced in *All Hail Megatron*, recently became the first IDW Transformers character to be turned into an actual toy, and now the sword-wielding 'bot is the star of his own four-part bi-weekly miniseries. Written by *AHM* scribe **Shane McCarthy** and featuring fan-favorite **Alex Milne** on art—with variant covers by the artist/co-creator **Guido Guidi**, Drift delves into the character's backstory and really explains how the former-Decepticon-turned-Autobot came to be.

See the full list below to see what else we're springing on you this fall: a career pictorial overview of artist **Jim Starlin**'s cosmic odysseys; Dean Haspiel's autobiographical exploits, **J. Scott Campbell**'s 12 months of fairy-tale reimagining's, a certain spinach-eating sailor's book, and much more.

I'll see you next month for a slew of Halloween-related titles Have a good 30 days!

IDW

SEPTEMBER RELEASES FROM IDW PUBLISHING

COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS

- 5 Days to Die #1
- 5 Days to Die #2
- 5 Days to Die #3
- 5 Days to Die #4
- 5 Days to Die #5

Weekly Books

- Angel #37
- Doctor Who #15
- Dragon Age #5
- Eternal Descent #4
- G.I. Joe #22
- G.I. Joe: A Real American Hero #158
- G.I. Joe: Cobra #8
- G.I. Joe: Cobra Special #2
- G.I. Joe: Hearts and Minds #5
- G.I. Joe: Origins #19
- Jurassic Park #4
- Kill Shakespeare #5
- Kodiak one-shot
- Last Unicorn #4
- Machete #0
- Midnight Movie:
  It, The Terror From Beyond Space #3
- The Murder of King Tut #4
- Mystery Society #4
- Phoenix Without Ashes #2
- Spike: The Devil You Know #4
- Star Trek: Burden of Knowledge #4
- Star Trek: Captain's Log: Pike one-shot
- Starstruck #13
- Strange Science Fantasy #3
- Transformers #11
- Transformers: Drift #1
- Transformers: Drift #2

Bi-Weekly Books

- Transformers: Sector 7 #1
- True Blood #3

IDW
MACHETE

100
HORROR MOVIES

IDW
STAR TREK
CAPTAIN'S LOG: PIKE

GRAPHIC NOVELS
ART BOOKS • SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

- Amazing True Stories: Ellis Island TPB
- Angel: Barbary Coast TPB
- Archie: Best of Stan Goldberg TPB
- Army of Two, Vol. 1 TPB
- Art of Jim Starlin HC • S&N HC
- Blondie, Vol. 1 HC
- Bram Stoker's Death Ship TPB
- G.I. Joe: Operation Hiss TPB
- Graphic New York Presents
  Dean Haspiel-The Early Years
- Grimm's Fairy Tales TPB
- IDW Double Feature:
  Belles of the Bayou TPB
- J. Scott Campbell's
  Fairytale Fantasies 2011 Calendar
- Li'L Abner, Vol. 2 HC
- Lone Justice, Vol. 1 TPB
- Popeye: The Best Comic Book Stories
  of Bud Sagendorf HC
- Singularity 7–New Printing TPB
- Tank Girl: The Royal Escape TPB
- Top 100 Horror Movies TPB
- Transformers IDW Collection Vol. 2 HC
- We Will Bury You TPB
- Yours Truly, Jack the Ripper TPB

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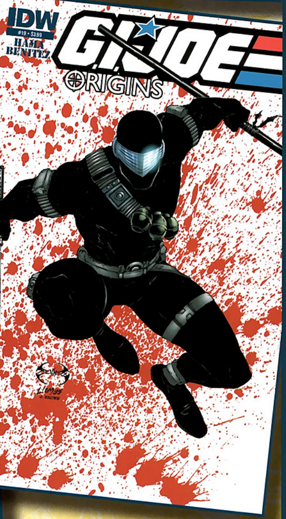
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